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(12) United States Patent

Schleppenbach et al.

(54) APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR A SHAPE MEMORY SPRING ACTUATOR AND DISPLAY

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(57) ABSTRACT

Various apparatus and methods for an actuator and display using one or more shape memory springs. A shape memory spring is heated and urges a pin to a first or extended position. The pin may be supported in the first position by a supporting mechanism. The shape memory spring is heated electically, and in some embodiments under the control of a processor. The present invention may be used to display information provided in a user interface from a computer program, including text, numerical data, and graphical images.

4 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets

